consumers of rural categories coming under NOIDA Telephone General Manager;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) The security deposit is not charged at the time of registration of a telephone connection. Only the registration amount is charged. Registration amount at a uniform rate of Rs. 500/- *w.e.f.* 1.12.2004 is being charged at present from all the new subscribers, both rural as well as urban, throughout the country including NOIDA. The security deposit is charged in the first bill issued to the subscriber subsequently after provision of telephone connection and the registration amount is adjusted against the security deposit amount. Earlier, the rate of security deposit was equal to 12 months advance rental and thus varied for rural subscribers from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 2520/- depending upon the rate of rental charged from rural subscribers. The rates of security deposit have now been rationalized both for rural and *w.e.f.* 17.5.2004 and are as under:

(i)	Telephones with local +95 facility	Rs. 1000
(ii)	Telephones with STD facility	Rs. 2000
(iii)	Telephones with ISD facility	Rs. 3000
(iv)	Sulabh Scheme with ITC card	Rs. 500

Thus only rural subscribers of NOIDA requiring ISD facility are liable to pay security deposit of Rs. 3000/-.

Child labour in cotton seed farms

*327. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children are working under hazardous conditions in the cotton seed farms for various MNCs in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether a number of children have died or became seriously ill due to exposure to pesticides;

(c) whether Government have issued any instructions to these companies for restricting them from hiring child labourers; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the cotton seed companies employing child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Criteria for giving reservation to SC/STs and OBCs

*329. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the system adopted while giving reservation to SC/STs and OBCs in Civil Services and competitive examinations held by UPSC, SSC, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that while allocation is made to SC/STs and OBCs, even meritorious reserved category candidates are also included in it; and

(c) whether Government would change this system of allocation for the benefit of the SC/STs and the OBCs?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs in posts filled by UPSC, SSC etc. on All India basis is available at the rate of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively. Number of reserved vacancies is determined on the basis of post-based reservation rosters. Reserved category candidates selected on their own merit are not adjusted against reserved vacancies.

(b) The reserved category candidates recommended in the General Merit list by the UPSC, SSC etc. are included in the reserve list in the matter of their service allocation only if it is to their advantage.

(c) In view of the above, No, Sir.

Upgradation of certain ESI Hospitals in Karnataka

*330. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought upgradation of